

(d) The number of Insured persons availing ESI medical benefit as on 31.3.2006 is as follows:—

Hyderabad Region	494093
Vijayawada Region	<u>182742</u>
TOTAL:	677835

The total number of beneficiaries availing the benefits are about 2.62 crores.

During the last three years, funds released to Andhra Pradesh Government are as under:—

Year	Amount released
2003-2004	412771562
2004-2005	374814899
2005-2006	455729500

In addition to above, expenditure on purchase of modern equipments as well as replacement of important equipments like cardiac monitor, Multi-Parameters monitor, Pulse Oxymeter, Anesthesia System, Anesthesia Ventilator, Pediatric Monitor, Ultrasound machine, X-ray machine, Arthroscope, C-arm with Fluoroscope, Image Intensifier, ENT Microscope, Diagnostic Laproscope, upper G I Endoscope, Cystoscope, Binocular Microscope, Automatic tissue processor, Ophthalmic chair, Ophthalmic Microscope, etc. costing Rs. 1.04 crores during 2005-06 and Rs. 2.14 crores during the current financial year has been sanctioned over and above the ceiling. Besides this, all expenditure on repair and maintenance of buildings of ESI hospitals and dispensaries is totally borne by ESI Corporation.

Unemployment allowance to unemployed youths

†72. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any policy has been formulated or propose to be formulated by the Government to award unemployment allowance to all unemployed youths; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith salient features?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Current minimum wages

†73. SHRI SAMAN PATHAK: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the current minimum wage rate of laborers working in organized and unorganized sectors;

(b) whether women and children are also getting equal wages; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to resolve the problems of these labourers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) A Statement giving the range of minimum wages for unskilled workers, as applicable both to the organized and unorganized sectors, in Central and State spheres, is enclosed (*See below*).

(b) Under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the minimum wages fixed for scheduled employments by Central and State Governments in their respective jurisdiction are applicable to all workers irrespective of the gender. The minimum wages for Children are not fixed by the appropriate Governments.

(c) The enforcement of the Act is secured both at the Central and State level. In the Central sphere, the implementation is secured through the Officers of the Central Industrial Relations Machinery, while at the State level, the responsibility of enforcement lies with the respective State Enforcement Machinery. Under the statutory provisions of the Act, the appropriate Government officials conduct regular inspections and advise the employers to make payment of shortfalls of wages whenever they come across any case of non-payment or less payment of wages to workers. In case of non-adherence of the advice, recourse to legal and penal actions against the defaulting employers is undertaken.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.